

DNREC—DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY

FACT SHEET: LOW EMISSION VEHICLE PROGRAM

What is the Low Emission Vehicle Program?

The Low Emission Vehicle Program represents a new approach to controlling emissions from passenger vehicles – cars and light duty trucks – by combining the control of smog-causing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions into a single coordinated package.

The goal is to guide the development of environmentally advanced cars that will continue to deliver the performance, utility and safety car owners have come to expect.

Protecting Public Health, Economy and Environment

Delaware has committed to protect public health, the economy and the environment through policies that address air pollution and climate change. Record progress has been made in addressing the state's stubborn air pollution problems but many of Delaware citizens still live in areas with unhealthy air. Climate change will exacerbate air pollution, and its impacts are already being felt in some areas. Addressing pollution from vehicles and light-duty trucks will help the Delaware achieve those goals.

This package consists of the following two elements:

Reducing smog forming pollution

Although cars today are significantly cleaner than they were just a decade ago, there are hundreds of thousands of vehicles on Delaware roads now, and those numbers will continue to increase. We are also driving more now than in previous years. In order to address this situation and continue to improve air quality DNREC has proposed new emission standards to reduce smog-forming emissions (also known as 'criteria pollutants') beginning with 2015 model year vehicles. Thanks to this regulation, in 2025, cars will emit 75 percent less smog-forming pollution than the average new car sold today.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has adopted new greenhouse gas standards for model year 2017 to 2025 vehicles. (The primary vehicular greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, and this regulation focuses on reducing the number of grams of carbon dioxide emitted for each mile traveled.) The new standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% in 2025. Studies indicate that they are technologically feasible and will save consumers money over the life of the vehicle because lower fuel use accompanies reductions of greenhouse gases. Technologies to achieve the new standards include engine and emission control advancements, wider application of advanced hybrid technology and greater use of stronger and lighter materials.

For more information

For information regarding Low Emission Vehicles, please contact the Division of Air Quality at (302) 739.9402 or

Visit the Low Emission Vehicle website at: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/air/Pages/1140LEV.html>

If you would like more information on what clean cars are available today, go to: www.fueleconomy.gov.

